

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,034

Examiner

Thomas J. Dailey

Applicant(s)

BATTLE ET AL.

Art Unit

2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/23/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11,13-15,17-22 and 24-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20090924.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Dohm Chankong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/23/2009 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17-30, 32, and 33 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Meline on September 25, 2009.

Claims 1-11, 13, 15, 23-27, 29, 30, 32, and 33, have been amended as follows:

Claims 1-10: (Cancelled)

Claim 11: A method comprising:

receiving a connection request at dispatch server of a publicly-accessible (public) instant message service enabling public instant message communications between two or more users,

wherein the connection request represents a request submitted by a user through an instant message client application;

determining whether the connection request is being received via an instant message gateway server;

in an event that connection request is being received from an instant messaging gateway, issuing an authentication challenge to authenticate an identity of the instant messaging gateway server from which the connection request is submitted;

in an event that the connection request is not being received from an instant message gateway server, determining whether the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in a instant message connect domain store of said publicly-accessible instant message service,

wherein said instant message connect domain store stores domain names that identify domains for which instant message service connection requests are to be redirected; and

in an event that the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in the instant message connect domain store, issuing a transfer command to the instant message client application,

wherein the transfer command identifies an enterprise instant message gateway server to which the connection request is redirected and through which the user's instant message communications are managed.

Claim 13: The method as recited in claim 11

verifying the user is authorized to participate in public instant messaging communications by examining data stored in an enterprise policy and configuration data store of the enterprise instant message gateway server.

Claim 15: A system comprising:

an enterprise instant message gateway server managing public instant message conversations in which an enterprise user participates; and
a publicly-accessible (public) instant message service, the public instant message service enabling public instant message communications between two or more users, wherein the public instant message service comprises:
an instant message connect domain store storing domain names that identify domains for which instant message service connection requests are to be redirected; and
a dispatch server comprising a processor and memory, with instructions encoded on the memory, the instructions when executed by the processor directing the dispatch server to perform acts comprising:

receiving a connection request, wherein the connection request represents a request submitted by a user through an instant message client application;

determining whether the connection request is being received via an instant message gateway server;

in an event that connection request is being received from an instant messaging gateway, issuing an authentication challenge to authenticate an identity of the instant messaging gateway server from which the connection request is submitted;

in an event that the connection request is not being received from an instant message gateway server, determining whether the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in the instant message connect domain store; and

in an event that the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in the instant message connect domain store, issuing a transfer command to the instant message client application, the transfer command identifying the enterprise instant message gateway server to which the connection request is redirected.

Claim 23: (Cancelled).

Claim 24: Replace line 1 with:
"The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the public"

Claim 25: Replace line 1 with:
"The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the"

Claim 26: Replace line 1 with:
"The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the"

Claim 27: Replace line 1 with:
"The system as recited in claim 15 further"

Claim 29: Replace line 1 with:
"The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising a"

Claim 30: (Cancelled)

Claims 32-33: (Cancelled)

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 11,13-15,17-22 and 24-29 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose or suggest all limitations of the claimed invention with particular emphasis determining whether a connection request is being received via an instant message gateway server and if so, issuing an authentication challenge to authenticate an identity of the instant messaging gateway server from which the connection request is submitted, and in an event that the connection request is not being received from an instant message gateway server, determining whether the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in a instant message connect domain store of a publicly-accessible instant message service, and when the connection request is from a user associated with a domain identified in the instant message connect domain store, issuing a transfer command to the instant message client application, identifying an enterprise instant message gateway server to which the connection request is redirected and through which the user's instant message communications are managed.
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - (a) US 20050102365 A1 - Method and system for multiple instant messaging login sessions.
 - (b) US 20030140103 A1 - Providing instant messaging functionality in non-instant messaging environments
 - (c) US 7299259 B2 - Method and apparatus for intelligent routing of instant messaging presence protocol (IMPP) events among a group of customer service representatives
 - (d) US 20020173308 A1 - Instant message proxy for circuit switched mobile environment
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Dailey whose telephone number is 571-270-1246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday; 9:00am - 5:00pm.
10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. J. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/Dohm Chankong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452